

**Wednesday, September 10, 2008**

**From the Coeur d'Alene Press**

- NIC trustees seek to enter purchase agreement

**From the Spokesman-Review**

- NIC board OKs corridor deal

**From the Moscow Pullman Daily News (password required)**

- Students suggest cell phone policy revisions
- OUR VIEW: University students deserve lower book prices (editorial)

**From the Lewiston Tribune (password required)**

- President: LCSC just bursting with flavor

**From the Idaho-Press Tribune, Nampa**

- Organic garden feeds C of I
- Our view Middleton bond deserves support (Editorial)

**From the Idaho Statesman**

- Report shows Boise State's carbon footprint among smallest in higher education

**From the Twin Falls Times-News**

- Paying for performance?
- Idaho Governor's Cup raises \$775K for scholarships

**From the Idaho State Journal (password Required)**

- No education news stories posted online today.

**From the Idaho Falls Post Register (password required)**

- No education news stories posted online today.

## FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

### **NIC trustees seek to enter purchase agreement**

Posted: Tuesday, Sep 09, 2008 - 11:22:55 pm PDT

Memorandum of Understanding would clarify desire, price

COEUR d'ALENE -- North Idaho College trustees are making sure they have all their ducks in a row so when the property that will anchor the creation of an educational corridor in downtown Coeur d'Alene is available for purchase, the college will be ready to buy it.

Trustees voted at a special meeting of the board Tuesday in favor of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with developer Marshall Chesrown, as owner of Mill Sites LLC, that clarifies the college's desire to acquire the 17-acre DeArmond Mill site property and Chesrown's intention to sell the property to NIC for \$10 million.

College attorney Marc Lyons told the board he hoped to have the document drafted within the next few days and recommended they authorize board chair Rolly Williams to enter into the MOU on their behalf.

Lyons also said the North Idaho College Foundation will likely be included on the memorandum.

"It's contemplated, one of the likely options here, is that the North Idaho College Foundation might be actually the purchaser of this property," Lyons said. "NIC will have a lease-option arrangement with the foundation with the right to subsequently acquire the property in time.,"

The North Idaho College Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors that solicits, accepts and manages both cash and non-cash gifts on behalf of NIC.

According to its Web site, "the foundation invests and administers those funds to provide a growing source of financial support for the college for current and future needs."

The college has a similar arrangement with the foundation regarding the Workforce Training Center property in Post Falls. The NIC Foundation holds the deed to that site and leases it to NIC with a lease agreement good through 2014.

"We've been trying to be public about the fact that we were going to go forward with the acquisition for this when it was the appropriate time," trustee Mic Armon said. "I think what we are to the point of now is to start putting some detail into an MOU that will give some guidance that when those certain details are completed then we will be ready to enter into a contract."

Lyons said it is important to recognize that the memorandum is not a purchase and sale contract.

"This is not a simple transaction. This is not a simple property. It was a mill site. It's got environmental issues that have to be addressed. It's got a number of title issues, rights of way issues and the like that have to be addressed and those things take time and getting everybody lined up on the details does take some time," Lyons said.

Trustee Christie Wood said she has heard from people who are concerned the \$10 million purchase price may change and wondered if Chesrown was committed to that sale price.

Lyons said that is what he has been told.

"Mr. Chesrown has consistently stated that he's committed to the \$10 million sales price and we're operating on that agreement," Lyons said.

Because the roughly \$2.5 million in foregone taxes previously approved for collection by trustees to be used in the land purchase won't be available until 2009, trustees also authorized the hiring of bond counsel.

The plan, Lyons said, is for the college to use short-term tax revenue anticipation note funding for the transaction.

Lyons recommended the hiring of Danielle Quade, of the firm Hawley Troxell Ennis and Hawley with offices in Boise, Ketchum, Pocatello and Reno.

The costs associated with hiring Quade, expected to run from \$5,000 to \$10,000, will not come from the college's operating budget.

"The fee is paid as part of the financing of the tax anticipation note," Lyons said.

Lyons briefly discussed the appraisal of the property recently completed for the college by appraiser Ed Morse.

"The market value was determined to be \$13,250,000, well in excess of the purchase price that Mr. Chesrown has consistently indicated that he would accept," Lyons said. "There is a copy of the appraisal and it is in the office of the vice president of community relations John Martin, and if someone wants to see the appraisal in its entirety, it is available there."

#### FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

#### **NIC board OKs corridor deal**

Details remain, but college president can work on buying mill  
Public comment

Two public forums will be held on North Idaho College's proposed purchase of a former mill site for \$10 million. The 17-acre site is to eventually serve as a regional hub for higher education. The public forums will be held:

Sept. 23 at noon at the Coeur d'Alene School District's Midtown Meeting Room at Linden Avenue and Fifth Street.

Sept. 25 at 7 a.m. in the Lake Coeur d'Alene Room of the Edminster Student Union Building at North Idaho College.

September 10, 2008

Coeur d'Alene's education corridor moved a step closer to reality Tuesday after North Idaho College's board of trustees authorized the signing of an agreement that calls for the college to spend \$10 million on an old mill site along the Spokane River.

The board's attorney, Marc Lyons, presented an appraisal valuing the 17-acre property just north of the college at \$13.25 million, higher than the proposed purchase price. Developer Marshall Chesrown has a contract to buy the property and has agreed to turn around and sell it to NIC for \$10 million for development of the education corridor.

The regional hub would allow local students to earn degrees from Idaho colleges and universities while remaining in North Idaho.

The board previously approved using \$2.4 million in forgone taxes, which are uncollected property taxes, to contribute toward that purchase price.

The board's action Tuesday authorized Chairman Rolly Williams and college President Priscilla Bell to sign a memorandum of understanding with Chesrown in the coming days that will pave the way for a purchase agreement. Details still being worked out include issues regarding the land title and environmental cleanup, Lyons said.

The agreement calls for the NIC Foundation to purchase the property and for NIC to have a lease-purchase option to acquire the property over time, Lyons said.

"The ultimate goal is that North Idaho College will purchase the property," Lyons said. The purchase of the mill is a key step in creating the education corridor, NIC officials have said.

Businessman Richard Phenneger, however, protested the board's decision, saying he doesn't believe adequate information has been provided justifying the use of taxpayer money. He said NIC hasn't released enough information about where the money will come from to buy the property, what the college's expenses will be, or whether a business plan exists.

"The point is when you're spending taxpayer money ... you have to hold yourself to the highest standard," Phenneger said in an interview before the meeting. The Post Falls man has decided to run for board member Judy Meyer's position due to his concerns. He has also claimed Meyer has

a conflict of interest because Ed Morse, a business partner of Meyer's husband, Steve, completed the appraisal.

Phenneger said Steve Meyer, a commercial developer, stands to benefit from development opportunities if the parcel is purchased. The master plan for the property shows one-third of it would be set aside for commercial development, Phenneger said.

However, the board and its attorney are satisfied no conflict of interest exists, they said. Board member Mic Armon said the trustees did not select the appraiser; Lyons and NIC administrator Rolly Jurgens did. In addition, Armon said, for conflict of interest to exist, there must be monetary gain, which he said he doesn't see in Phenneger's claims.

"I believe it's a bit of stretch," Armon said. "You have to be able to show there's a benefit there. I think it's a non-event."

#### FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

##### **Students suggest cell phone policy revisions**

By Halley Griffin, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Tuesday, September 09, 2008

Daniel Carlson hopes his fellow students appreciate the efforts he and three other Genesee seniors have put into the school district's cell phone policy.

Carlson, Cody Kinzer, Steven Cox and Destiny Barker have spent the past few weeks polling every junior and senior high school student about their use of cell phones and other portable electronic communication devices.

Carlson presented the group's findings to the school board Monday night. The board had asked the senior class last month to provide input to the district regarding its policy for the use of cell phones, laptop computers, PDAs and iPods, which is currently under revision.

After hearing the group's suggestions, board member Jennifer Parkins indicated the board would be willing to allow students to use cell phones in the hallways between periods on a trial basis, but will require communication devices to be left in students' lockers during the rest of the school day.

The board directed Superintendent David Neumann to incorporate the students' input into the existing policy, and the board will vote on the revisions during its October meeting.

School districts throughout the region have made cell phone policy changes as more and more cell phones come with cameras and Internet browsing capabilities. Last month, the Coeur

d'Alene school board approved a total ban on communication devices on school property, a policy that board members in Genesee felt would be unenforceable.

"The school board was looking at a policy that was fairly restrictive. We're trying to give students more accountability, responsibility and leadership opportunities," said Genesee business technology teacher Peter Crowley, who worked with the students to devise their policy suggestions.

Carlson, Kinzer, Barker and Cox ultimately proposed to keep the existing policy, with a few adjustments.

In addition to being able to use cell phones between periods, students would be allowed to use them on school property before and after school and during lunch. Phone calls would only be allowed outside the school building.

"My concern is I don't want to hear hundreds of phones ringing in the hallways between classes," said Principal Loretta Stowers.

Carlson, Kinzer, Barker and Cox agreed. Cox said they talked to students and listened to all their suggestions, but only took the most feasible ideas into consideration.

"Some students said we should be allowed to use our cell phones after we finish our work and the teacher's done teaching," Carlson said, shaking his head and laughing. "That wouldn't happen."

Carlson said he thought the meeting went pretty well. According to the district's technology director, Christopher Campbell, the revisions would make Genesee's policy one of the most lenient in the state.

There's just one problem, Barker said. Seniors' lockers are located in the new wing of the school, where cell phones don't get service.

"So we'll probably be back," she said.

### **OUR VIEW: University students deserve lower book prices (editorial)**

Posted on: Tuesday, September 09, 2008

Ask any college student what their largest expense is after tuition and room and board, and most will answer textbooks.

Purchasing new textbooks for a quarter or semester can cost hundreds of dollars, and that's a big hit on a student's budget.

Some students cut their college careers short because they cannot afford the necessary books.

Fortunately, something is being done to help alleviate the spiraling cost of textbooks. The textbook cost issue has become a big enough problem that Congress passed legislation to ease the burden.

The College Textbook Affordability Act will go into effect in July 2010.

According to a recent report by the Government Accountability Office, the cost of textbooks has tripled in the last 20 years. The report also indicates the average full-time student spends about \$898 annually for textbooks.

The answer for some students is to purchase used texts, share a text or not buy one at all. Unfortunately, some students opt for the latter choice and put themselves at risk.

The act will provide a good start to getting textbook costs under control.

The new law will force publishers to provide information about textbook prices to faculty and students. It also will eliminate "bundling," whereby textbooks are sold with CD-ROMs or other supplemental materials.

Often the extras are never used for the class.

Understandably, textbooks are expensive to produce. They are painstakingly researched and vetted by experts before they go on sale and are not million-copy sellers that make significant profits for the authors.

Nonetheless, publishers will do whatever it takes to make a book profitable and often that means high prices at the bookstore.

We hope the act will bring some relief to students who need it. It would be a shame to lose a promising student because of an expensive book.

#### FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

##### **President: LCSC just bursting with flavor**

Lewiston school sees a 9 percent jump in enrollment; UI posts 1st gain in 5 years

By Joel Mills of the Tribune

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Dene Thomas said enrollment this semester is like a robust tomato plant: it yielded more fruit than expected.

The Lewis-Clark State College president hailed a record enrollment for the fall semester of 3,940 students, a 9 percent increase since last fall.

"Did we expect an increase?" Thomas asked. "Absolutely. Is this even better than we expected? Yes. We're thrilled."

And while enrollment at the University of Idaho hasn't grown like a tomato vine in the late summer sun, officials there welcomed the first bump in student numbers in five years.

"We're real pleased with our progress," said Jeanne Christiansen, vice provost for academic affairs.

The university posted a modest 1.3 percent gain for the fall semester to 11,791 students statewide, according to figures released Tuesday.

Much of the overall increase is accounted for by 3,733 new students, an almost 12 percent increase over last year and the third consecutive year of new student growth.

Previous administrators have pegged the UI's long enrollment slide to the tarnish of a mismanaged attempt to expand in Boise seven years ago and the resulting financial turmoil.

But scholarships that were slashed have since been restored, and recruitment and marketing efforts have gotten bigger budgets.

Thomas said the ongoing economic slump accounts for at least a part of LCSC's sharp increase.

"The economy and college enrollments are in an inverse relationship," she said of the desire many have during hard times to turn to education.

Thomas has said before that LCSC offers the two-year degrees and job training that provide a relatively quick fix for people looking to improve their economic situation.

But many new students are coming directly from high school, she said. Those student numbers are up by 485, a 19 percent increase over last year and a direct result of recruiting in area schools.

"That's not the economy," Thomas said of that increase, which is also a new record.

When Thomas took over at LCSC in 2001, enrollment was less than 3,000. She set a goal of 4,500 students, so the school is prepared for a large influx of new students whenever it occurs, she said.

"We're not stuffing the classes," she said.



New revenues generated by student tuition and fees are used to pay for new adjunct faculty members, she said, and several experienced adjuncts have been promoted to full-time positions over the last year.

"We have been preparing for this increase."

Recruitment has also focused on Indian students, Thomas added, resulting in an 18 percent increase in that demographic.

Christiansen said the UI is also focusing on diversity. There was a 10 percent increase in black students, a 5 percent increase in Indian students and a 7 percent increase in Hispanic students.

"We're very committed to having a diverse student body and population," she said.

The university has hired several people in recent years to focus on recruiting from those minority communities, she added.

New scholarships targeted at those communities have also made a difference, said UI spokeswoman Tania Thompson.

Another area where the UI has seen a big turnaround is with graduate students. Last year, an independent analysis faulted graduate programs for not bringing in enough research grants and contracts, not publishing enough and not focusing enough on other scholarly activities.

But Christiansen said a comprehensive effort, including an infusion of cash to bolster grad student stipends, has reversed a 21 percent drop in enrollment between 2002 and 2007.

About \$500,000 was put into stipends, Thompson said.

In just one year, graduate student enrollment has increased by 24 percent, according to the university.

Fall enrollment numbers for Washington State University will be released later this week, said spokesman James Tinney.

FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

### **Organic garden feeds C of I**

College: On-site growing creates sense of sustainability

By Alisa Angelakis  
aangelakis@idahopress.com

CALDWELL — The College of Idaho planted an organic garden this year as part of its food service program that encourages students and staff to eat locally.

Communications Director Jennifer Oxley said the food service company that serves the college, Bon Appetit, encourages the purchase of food grown within 100 miles.

“It saves gas and supports local farmers,” Oxley said.

Matt Caldwell, general manager of Bon Appetit, said he considers it to be a sustainable food service company.

“The garden is a student project that we help to guide,” he said.

Bon Appetit hired an intern, Claire Deters, to organize, plant and take care of the garden.

Deters, a junior at C of I, said she didn’t expect such a high volume of produce from the garden.

“I’ve been really happy with the tomatoes,” she said.

Caldwell said the garden helps students to think more about where their food comes from and how it’s produced.

“It’s nice to add that educational piece,” he said. “They can see the food go right from the garden to their plate.”

Caldwell said Deters also takes care of the worm composting used to fertilize the garden.

“It’s really been a learning experience for me,” Caldwell said. “I consider myself to be the tree-hugger of the food world, but this is my first experience with gardening. It’s neat to be able to provide this right out our back door.”

## **Our view Middleton bond deserves support (Editorial)**

? SUMMARY: District needs new high school, and should be able to pay for it without raising taxes

The Middleton School District is asking voters to approve a \$51.9 million bond to pay for a new high school. After reviewing their proposal, we encourage voters to support it on Sept. 18. You can vote from noon to 9 p.m. The bond requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

For those of you who may be asking, “didn’t they just open a new high school?”, that facility was built with the intent of serving as a middle school. It was built to replace the high school that burned down in early 2007 and serve as a high school until a larger one can be built.

Plans for this new school were in place before the fire, and the district has been aggressive in informing the public about the plans. Citizens have complained in the past about some elections for other things being too stealth, and not having even known they were taking place until after the fact.

But we’re impressed with the level of community involvement the Middleton School District has taken in pursuing this project. They’ve posted signs notifying the public and posted it on the district’s Web site. They’ve gone out into the community to inform people and solicit advice.

One of the top selling points the district is touting is that the bond will not increase property taxes. The district claims it can hold to this promise by refinancing existing bonds, increased market value and by the extra revenue that growth creates.

Recent trends in the real-estate market and the slowing of growth are legitimate concerns when trying to plan long-term. The school wouldn’t open until 2011, so what happens if real-estate values continue to fall, and growth isn’t what district officials are predicting?

Middleton School District officials say they have planned conservatively for what property values will be, not expecting anywhere near the kind of huge increases we had two years ago. The good side of that coin is, with construction slowing due to the real-estate situation, the

district should be able to get a good price on the job. Builders are anxious for work right now, so Middleton should get a lot for its dollar.

With 915 students currently enrolled in a school built to accommodate 725, the need is definitely there. And there are always financial risks, but we're relatively confident it can be done without adding to the burden of taxpayers.

## FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

### **Report shows Boise State's carbon footprint among smallest in higher education**

Statesman staff - Idaho Statesman

Edition Date: 09/09/08

Boise State University's per capita carbon footprint is among the smallest in the country for higher education institutions, according to a recent report by the university's Office of Energy Research, Policy and Campus Sustainability.

The report, released this week, concludes that Boise State emits just 2.3 metric tons of carbon dioxide for each person (students, staff and faculty) on campus each year. This places Boise State among the smallest known greenhouse gas emitters in higher education in the nation and provides campus planners with a baseline for improvement as the university grows.

Written by John Gardner, Boise State's associate vice president for energy research, policy and campus sustainability, the report provides a comprehensive inventory of the greenhouse gas emissions due to campus operations over the past five years. It was a requirement of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment signed by Boise State President Bob Kustra in 2007.

"This report, and the underlying analysis, is only the first step of a long-term commitment to make Boise State a national leader in sustainability," Gardner wrote. "This study indicates that we are very effective in using our resources. We provide essential educational access to far more students per unit of energy than most institutions of higher learning. We are poised to show the way in achieving climate neutrality and do so in a manner that does not compromise our core mission or values."

Specific reasons for Boise State's strong performance include:

- Size and square footage of campus buildings compared to the number of students served.
- Ongoing work to modernize and improve campus infrastructure and modify campus activities to lower energy consumption.
- Relatively mild climate in the Boise area; the harshest conditions are prevalent during the summer when demand for buildings and services are low.

The report also provides Boise State planners a baseline to compare the university's progress as it grows and incorporates energy efficient building design, practices and education into its physical plant and daily practices.

"Our academic programs continue to be intricately tied to the overarching notion of sustainability," Gardner wrote in the report. "From engineering to business and many places in between, our faculty incorporates the lessons of sustainability, conservation and stewardship in all of our academic programs. We plan on sharpening that focus to allow interested students to engage this issue in great depth, regardless of their chosen academic plans."

Over the period covering the report, Boise State's carbon emissions have grown 3 percent each year, which is commensurate with the overall growth of the university. Gardner's position was created last year, in large part, to address this issue as the university begins implementing a far-reaching, sustainable construction program incorporating best practices for sustainability in development. In fact, Gardner hopes Boise State's construction program can become a laboratory for sustainable urban development in the midst of one of the fastest growing regions in the nation.

"Our first priority should be to eliminate the rate of increase," Gardner said. "As we refurbish our older buildings and create new indoor spaces on campus, we will keep our goal to become climate neutral in clear focus."

Gardner said the next step is the creation of a comprehensive, long-term plan to make climate neutrality on campus a reality. That plan is expected to be completed in one year.

While comprehensive school-to-school comparisons are not available, random examples included in the report suggest Boise State ranks among the lowest-impact higher education institutions in the nation in regard to emission of greenhouse gases. For example, institutions such Penn State, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Harvard University emit about 11 metric tons of carbon dioxide per person annually.

Among those included in the report, Yale University posted the largest number at 25.1 metric tons per person, while Tufts University posted the lowest with 2.2 metric tons per person.

#### FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

##### **Paying for performance?**

Luna's proposed budget a hot topic among educators

By Ben Botkin

Times-News writer

Music teacher David Gibson led a group of third-graders at Morningside Elementary School on Tuesday through a song from the film "Mary Poppins."

For Gibson, music is a performance-based art that does not measure students' progress through written tests. That's one reason why he was not in favor of a failed legislative proposal from the 2008 session that would have paid teachers based on how students perform on Idaho Standard Achievement Tests.

Now, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna has a proposed budget for fiscal year 2009-10 that includes \$27 million for teacher raises and a pay-for-performance plan. The bulk of the money, \$18 million, would go toward the pay-for-performance plan under the proposal.

The proposal died in the Senate earlier this year. Gibson, also president of the Twin Falls Education Association, did not agree with the proposal then.

"There were too many questions left unanswered," he said.

For a new plan to be successful, it would need to be equally and clearly available to all teachers, Gibson said. "If you can't guarantee it for all teachers, then it makes it highly unfair," he said.

Melissa McGrath, spokeswoman for the State Department of Education, said the agency plans to have a plan and its details ready in January.

The previous proposal included bonuses for educators based on ISAT test results, bonuses for teachers hired in hard-to-fill areas decided by local school districts, and bonuses for teachers involved in leadership activities like curriculum development.

McGrath said it's possible that those components could be in the new proposal, adding that it's too early to say for sure. She stressed that Luna intends to meet with education professionals and the Idaho Education Association and get feedback before putting a proposal together.

Sherri Wood, president of the IEA, isn't ready to oppose or support the plan because its details remain undecided. For now, she's hoping to talk with Luna and other educators and reach a workable plan.

The IEA opposed the last year's plan because the union believed that it relied too heavily on test scores to measure performance. There are other ways to look at student growth, which includes areas like parental input, lower dropout rates, and student attendance, Wood said.

A successful pay-for-performance plan would need to be available to all teachers, she said.

"We really believe that we can work out an alternative pay plan with all the policy planners and go forward in the Legislature," she said.

Sen. Bert Brackett, R-Rogerson, said he supports the general concept of a pay-for-performance plan, but would want to make sure it's fair for all teachers.

"The teacher evaluation uniform was one of the criticisms of the plan last year and probably the fatal one," Brackett said.

Rep. Maxine Bell, R-Jerome, said she would need to make sure that the state could financially support a pay-for-performance plan for teachers before casting a vote of support.

"Had it become policy, I'm not sure we could have implemented it with the money we had," Bell said. "I think the difficulty for him (Luna) will be first getting a policy passed that everyone's comfortable with and getting a policy in place that we can continue to sustain."

Rep. Jim Patrick, R-Twin Falls, said he would support a pay-for-performance proposal, provided that all teachers had the same opportunity for higher salaries.

"How you measure the performance is the big issue and we're going to have to make sure it's fair and everyone's treated equally," Patrick said, noting that a lot of teachers believed the last proposal was unfair.

Patrick also believes that a pay-for-performance plan could prove more acceptable than an across-the-board pay increase.

"We have to treat the teachers right because we totally depend on them to educate our kids," he said. "We do want to reward the best teachers and that's kind of where we're at."

### **Idaho Governor's Cup raises \$775K for scholarships**

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho - The 2008 Idaho Governor's Cup has raised about \$775,000 for scholarships.

Participants in the annual event compete in golf, fly-fishing and shotgun sports and the money raised goes toward scholarships for students who might not otherwise be able to attend college.

For the past 37 years, the event has been held in Sun Valley. But this year, Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter decided to take the Cup up north and it was held in Coeur d'Alene last weekend.

Katie Hammon, executive director of the Idaho Governor's Cup Scholarship Fund, said this year's fundraising total was about \$175,000 more than last year.

FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

**No education news stories posted online today.**

FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

**No education news stories posted online today.**